



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

October 16,  
1948  
No 1543

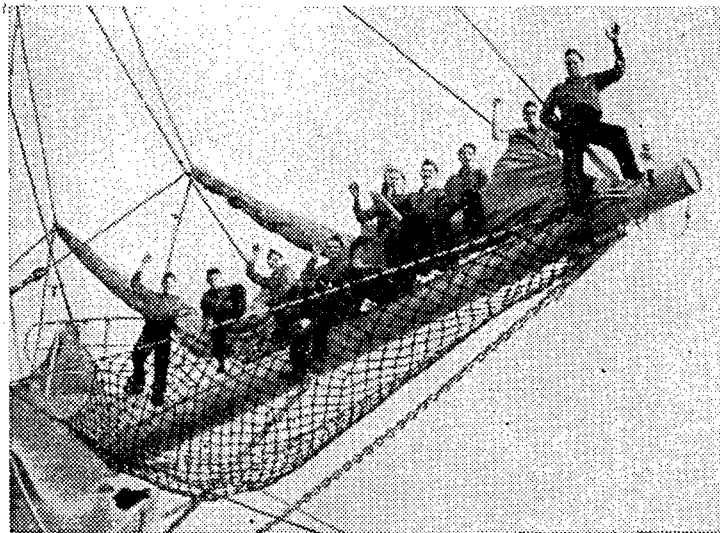
EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

## TWELVE CADETS IN WONDERLAND

### Round the World in a Scientific Research Ship



A DOZEN Swedish lads have recently completed a voyage which will make them envied by adventurous boys in all lands. They have sailed round the world in the four-masted Swedish motor schooner Albatross which, with many ingenious devices, has been exploring the eternally dark regions at the bottom of the ocean.

When the trim white Albatross called at London Docks recently a CN representative was invited on board. He met Professor Hans Pettersson who was in charge of the expedition, and also talked with members of the ship's company, which consisted of the 12 cadets who were part of the crew, ten scientists, and 13 officers and sailors.

Hanging from the masts was a narrow cone-shaped fishing net, 38 feet long. This is the deep-sea trawl lowered to catch specimens of the kind of life that exists at depths never reached by daylight. This trawl was lowered to a greater depth than had ever been reached by such a net—over 25,000 feet, nearly as far below sea level as Mount Everest is above it!

Strange creatures were hauled up from some of these abysses, and many have been preserved in the Albatross; deep-sea fishes from 16,000 feet with long fins and tails, a pale pink octopus, giant prawns, a small black fish with thin grey stripes, a phosphorescent sea-pen, the Umbellula, which grows on the bottom and catches small fish. Some of these deep-sea fish are blind.

#### Samples of Sea-Bed

This, however, was only part of the scientists' work. Attached to the deck rail of the Albatross was the 68-foot-long core-sampler, a steel tube of two inches diameter inside, which was used for obtaining samples of the bed of the ocean. This was lowered on the end of a steel wire of which the Albatross has 30,000 feet. The wire is worked from a huge winch in the forward part of the ship. When the steel tube at the end of the wire reaches the bottom, weights on it carry

it on down into the sediment of the ocean bed. It is then hauled up filled with sediment which is carefully removed and stored in a large number of aluminium tubes. Each of these store-tubes thus contains a small column of the sea bed, from the top downwards, and this will be studied by scientists in Sweden.

#### Sea Water For Study

On another part of the deck of the Albatross is more gear for lowering small tubes for taking samples of sea water at various depths. There is a special device, worked by weights, on each tube so that it takes in water only at the required depth. A thermometer attached to the tube registers the temperature at that depth and the water obtained is stored in bottles for future study.

Another instrument is lowered into the sea for recording, by photo-electric means, how the daylight diminishes at different depths.

Between decks the Albatross is a floating laboratory. Here is a wonderful British-made echo-sounder which, as it works, draws a diagram on paper of the shape of the ocean bed, its hills and valleys.

In another laboratory-cabin is a different kind of echo-sounding apparatus. This is worked by means of a depth-charge dropped over the side of the ship. The first echo of the explosion comes back from the surface of the sediment, and the second echo from the solid rock below the sediment. By measuring the time between the two echoes, calculation can be made of the sediment's thickness.

The Albatross scientists also hauled up specimens of those

Continued in next column

## Land of Perpetual Youth

### ROMANTIC FLORIDA

THE full tale of the damage caused by the recent cyclone in beautiful Florida has not yet been told. The authorities have learned, however, that the havoc wrought among the rich farmlands of the area amounts to over six million sterling. The one consolation is that the losses were far heavier 20 or 30 years ago, before warnings of approaching hurricanes could be broadcast.

Almost everything about Florida is out-of-the-ordinary; and nothing could be more colourful and romantic than the early history of this great South Atlantic State—bigger than England and Wales together. It began within twenty years of the first discoveries of Columbus, when his successors began to hear tales in the New World not only of boundless gold and silver, but of a land that held the secret of perpetual youth.

#### Mystic Fountains

It was this glowing story that in 1513 drew Juan Ponce de Leon (one of the companions of Columbus on his second voyage and later Governor of Porto Rico), in quest of then un-named Florida. He was content at the outset to ignore all promise of wealth so that he might be the first to come to the mystic fountains whose waters were said to prevent those who drank them from growing old or suffering affliction.

Bitter was the disappointment attending the discovery of the land of false promise, where young men perished of disease while seeking everlasting youth. Nevertheless, Florida became the first Spanish possession in North America—in the same year that Balboa, seeking no magic fountains, discovered an ocean of nearly 70 million square miles, the Pacific.

With its delightful sub-tropical climate Florida has brought fortune and delight to many Americans; but it has also brought calamity again and again, not only through its cyclones, but also from occasional climatic freaks accompanying great waves of intense cold which have swept down from the north-west, freezing the orange trees and all the rest of the hot-weather vegetation in which this State is normally rich to overflowing.

#### RESEARCH SHIP—Continued

mysterious objects of the deep ocean bed called manganese nodules. These are small lumps of a solid dark-brown substance consisting of peroxide of manganese. They are believed to form at the rate of one millimetre (.03937 of an inch) in 1000 years!

There are many more wonders in this science ship, and the 12 lucky lads who have helped to sail her—for she uses sails as well as her engines—will never forget their memorable voyage in the Albatross.

## Living Dust Above the North Pole

No flowers bloom about the North Pole, but it has a garden sown by the winds, according to Dr Nicholas Polunin, Professor of Botany at McGill University and till recently keeper of the University Herbarium at Oxford.

Dr Polunin has just recently returned from a flight over and round the Pole. He was able to capture in mid-air samples of what the winds sow there, or carry even at a height of five miles to sow thousands of miles away.

Not that there is anything spectacular to be seen except by the eye of science, which discerns things not ordinarily seen.

For the scientist can see there, as through a glass darkly, plant life through the ages, beginning with spores and the earliest forms of plant life and continuing with the seeds and with them the flowering plants which were later ushered into their kingdom.

What is a spore? It is just a mass of protoplasm, the stuff of life, naked; without a cell wall to enclose it; sometimes capable of growth into a microscopic plant. It is like a speck of dust, sometimes able to move under its own power, sometimes wanting its passage assisted.

At the bottom of the scale it engendered the Thallophyte, the simplest and most primitive plant, a single cell, a filament, a surface of cells; no stem, root, or leaf. After it came the Algae, green and red. After these came the Fungi and then the Bacteria, headed by the

Charophyte, and of which the stonewort is the modest representation, the Diatoms, and the Ferns.

A number of these ancient but living spores were found by Dr Polunin and captured, for they were but dust, and he has reported an unexpected abundance of bacterial moulds, yeast, pollen, and other living particles in the Polar air, and he suspects that among them may be the spores of serious plant diseases.

Some time must pass before Dr Polunin will be able to publish the results of the examination at McGill of his catch.

That the air currents about the Pole, with its atmosphere as icily pure as its Northern Lights, could carry plant diseases, may seem rather disconcerting; and it cannot be lightly dismissed when we remember that aeroplanes have carried tropical diseases.

The botanist, like the physician, has today his means of conquering evil microscopic germs, so not much harm may be feared. On the credit side of what the dust germs may do, may be set the fact that the idle vagrant airs brought to the culture plate of Sir Alexander Fleming in his laboratory at St Mary's Hospital the discovery of penicillin.

## PORCELAIN PRINCESS



The girl in this picture is admiring a statuette of Princess Elizabeth as she appeared at the King's Birthday parade last year. A hundred reproductions of the figure, designed by Doris Lindner of London, were made in Royal Worcester china—for export only.



# THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

## Banish Fear and Well-Being Can Be Assured

*What progress is mankind making in providing for its daily bread? Not very much, alas, is the answer recently given by the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs. Here we explain why this is so.*

OUR economists tell us that the world is still suffering from very much the same trouble as befell it immediately after the end of the war. There is still a shortage of many important goods—particularly of food in most countries; there is inflation in many a country, and not enough trade by far between nations. In a word, the world is still, economically speaking, in very poor health.

That is the general picture. In simpler terms it looks like this: there is, in some countries, an abundance of goods of certain kinds; in this country, for example, we can buy any number of pots and pans, radios, electric irons, and so on, also fair quantities of clothing, shoes, and other useful things. But in Britain, and other countries, too, food is still being rationed, either because there is not enough of it in the world, or because, being short of foreign exchange, we are

unable to buy it on the world markets.

Its food problem is, in fact, the biggest single worry mankind has to face. Foodstuffs are not at present increasing as fast as the peoples of the world. As the Director General of the Food and Agricultural Organisation graphically expressed it in a report to the UN General Assembly, "There will be 55,000 more people for breakfast tomorrow morning." Furthermore, careful calculations prove that we—mankind as a whole—are producing less food today than ten years ago.

There is another difficulty in world economics. The exchange of goods between countries is not big enough to remove shortages in many parts of the world.

### Fantastic Situation

While Britain may have a glut of, say, electric irons, there may be countries where such irons are virtually unobtainable. While we may wish to export tractors or farming machinery, our would-be customers for these goods may not be able to buy them simply because they lack the money, that is, the pound sterling or the dollar, which our factories can accept.

Can anything be done to remedy this fantastic situation in which industrial goods cannot cross frontiers to help farmers to produce food to still the hunger of millions of people? Yes, there are ways and means which can avert a disaster.

On a purely technical level there are various organisations such as the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Economic Commission for Europe, and similar commissions for Latin America and Asia which provide the necessary apparatus for investigating, planning, lending money, and other operations which may help to restore world trade. Above all, however, the remedy lies in the establishment of international trust, because business between nations, like business between individuals, can thrive only where confidence and mutual respect exist.

### Mankind's Urgent Task

So, what the world now needs for the balancing of its economy is not so much the building of a new intricate machinery for international co-operation, but the removal of fear. Fear, as Mr Bevin and other Western statesmen recently declared at the General Assembly of the United Nations, is unfortunately still with us.

The circle of cause and effect is complete: mankind's well-being cannot be assured until all men have a decent standard of living. This largely depends on the expansion of international trade. But international trade cannot develop where a danger of war exists. Mankind's most urgent task, therefore, is to banish for ever the fear of war.

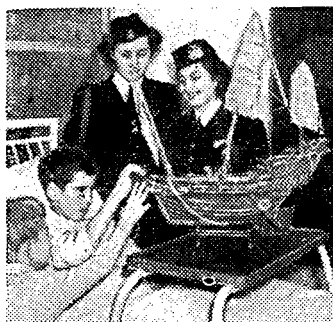
## Developing British Guiana

ONE of the important tasks of the Colonial Development Corporation, which was established this year, will be to develop the extensive forests of British Guiana. Although nearly 90 per cent of this country is covered with forests comparatively little timber has been taken out of it because roads are few and the rivers, normally an ideal method for transporting timber to the sea, have too many rapids. The railways, too, are confined for the most part to the low, swampy coastal belt.

Perhaps the most valuable timber in British Guiana is the handsome greenheart, which is hard like teak and is impervious to the attacks of insects which do enormous damage to other trees. Another tree is the balata, whose juice is used in the manufacture of machine-belt. Native Indians, called "balata bleeders," travel up the rivers from the coast in canoes to tap these trees. Yet another is the curiously named wallaba which may in the future help considerably to eke out our meagre ration of wood pulp for paper.

It is probable that the Corporation may turn later to developing other industries in British Guiana. Sugar cane is grown here in considerable quantities, and molasses (black treacle) is also exported. In the heart of the country prospectors fight their way through dense undergrowth to seek for gold and diamonds in the alluvial beds of the rivers.

### Gift From China



Welcome visitors to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London, were aircraft stewardesses who brought with them a model of a Chinese junk, a gift from the BOAC staff at Hong Kong.

### Plane's Electrical Fault-Finder

EIGHTEEN electronic analysers, or fault-finders, are to be fitted on aircraft of the Pan-American World Airways trans-Atlantic line.

It is said that mechanical trouble accounts for more than eight out of every ten delays in flight departures; and the analyser is expected to eliminate two-thirds of these.

This apparatus indicates precisely the point of trouble in the engine, and forecasts a new era in airline maintenance.

It not only finds and identifies the components that are causing trouble, but gives a perpetual indication of the source of trouble both in flight and on the ground. Thus the flight engineer can survey his charge at regular intervals and by watching electronic pictures on a cathode-ray indicator can see trouble long before it normally makes itself felt.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**PEACE PRIZE.** Mr Ramakrishna Dalmia, a rich Indian newspaper proprietor, is offering on behalf of the Dalmia Jain Trust an award of 50,000 rupees a year to any person, irrespective of race or religion, who renders the greatest service to the promotion and maintenance of human peace in 1949, 1950, and 1951.

An exhibition touring Australia shows the advances in town planning made in Britain since the war. It is designed to assist Australian town-planners.

The familiar Australian Army bush hat is to be replaced by the beret.

A joint United States-Canadian expedition, carrying supplies to stations in the Arctic, has found records of Sir George Nares's exploration in 1875-76, and of Peary's in 1905-6.

A 24-foot plastic boat, which carries 22 people and was built for the US Navy by six men in six hours, is being exhibited in New York.

Mr Jinnah, the late Governor-General of Pakistan, bequeathed large sums of money to Moslem educational institutions.

**KIND WORLD.** During the past two years 250 British crippled ex-Servicemen have spent holidays as guests of the Swiss.

In Queensland not long ago the wife of a prospector picked up what is believed to be the biggest sapphire yet found. It weighs 1958 carats. She found it at Reward Claim, Rubyvale, only about 300 yards from where the Black Star sapphire, valued at £75,000, was found last year.

**ZOO SWOP.** The London and Moscow Zoos have made an exchange of animals. London sent a chimpanzee, some monkeys, a leopard, a toucan, and a hornbill; Moscow sent in exchange a fine snow leopard, a northern lynx, a bearded vulture, and five red-breasted geese.

The Supreme Commander of French Equatorial Africa and the French Colonial Administrator went to Khartoum not long ago for a two-day good will meeting with the acting Governor General, Sir Edington Miller.

A regular naval force for East Africa is to be established and its depot, which will probably be at Mombasa, is to be called H M East African ship Mvita, a Swahili word meaning war.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**OLDEST TRIPLETS?** John Marshall, Robert Marshall, and Mrs Mary Thomson, all of Cambslang, Lanarkshire, who celebrated their 70th birthday recently, claim to be the oldest triplets in Britain.

The Glasgow Society of Musicians is to offer a prize of £150 for the best new musical composition submitted by a British composer. The composition should be chamber music to be played by two to five instruments.

**WELL NAMED.** Not long ago a golden retriever named Rover jumped into a compartment of a train at Portsmouth and was taken by himself to London where, arriving without a ticket, he was "detained." Eventually he was sent back in a guard's van to his owner, Lieut-Commander D. Cameron, V.C.

A recent gift to Croydon is a Florentine marble table made for the Tsar of Russia in 1851.

St Katherine's College, Liverpool, a Church of England centre for training women teachers, has opened a branch at Scarisbrick Hall, near Southport.

A toy balloon which was released at Cliffe, Kent, reached St André, 35 miles west of Paris.

The referee wore a top hat and the players stocking hats when Westerham (Kent) Football Club celebrated their diamond jubilee. They won against Sevenoaks, the club they first defeated 60 years ago.

**NEST EGG.** Three teaspoons, two brass buttons, some tinfoil, a pen nib, and a collar stud were found in a magpie's nest at Rainham, Kent.

University scholarships in mining engineering and allied subjects have been won by 51 youths now working in the coal industry.

**TRAGEDY.** Last August 93 children were killed on the roads. Altogether 394 people were killed, and 15,427 were injured.

In the Suffolk N F U's thatching contest, the oldest competitor was aged 87 and the youngest 19.

The mission ship John Williams VI, which is due to leave for the Pacific this month, has been visited in British ports by over 90,000 children. Of the £70,000 needed for the ship's cost, £34,000 has been received.

London's newest power station is to be built on the site of the Import Dock in West India Dock, which has been drained and is now being cleaned.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**BB BRASS BANDS.** The massed bands of the London District Boys' Brigade are to break fresh ground this year by holding a Festival in the Central Hall, Westminster, London, on Saturday November 13, at 7.30 p.m.

The new General Secretary of the Boy Scouts Association is Mr A. C. C. Freeman, who has been an active member of the Scout movement for 24 years. He succeeds Mr A. W. Hurl, now Chief Executive Commissioner.

The membership of the Boy Scout Movement in the United Kingdom has increased by 31,060 in the last year. There are now 446,202 active members.

At the World Pipe Band Championships, held in Glasgow, the third place in the juvenile section was taken by the band of the 47th Edinburgh Company, Boys' Brigade, which is connected with St Bride's Church.

Eight-year-old Wolf Cub David Parkes of the 49th Nottingham Pack, has received a Letter of Commendation from the Chief Scout for saving the life of a little girl in Nottingham Canal last May.

Peter Cavanagh, well-known radio impressionist and ex-Scout, is the guest on the "Voice of Scouting" radio programme on Radio Luxembourg on Sunday, October 17, at 6.45 p.m.

### PAPER MONEY

THE Waste Paper Recovery Association is offering £6000 in prize money to local authorities for collections of waste paper made during the next six months—October to March, 1949. £5000 of the prize money will be divided among councils of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and a further £1000 will be allocated to Scotland. The address of the Association is 52 Mount Street, London, W.1, to which all inquiries should be sent.





### Village in a Garden

Most little girls have to be content with one doll's house, but Janice and Averil Palmer of Southampton have a complete village in their garden, built by their father.

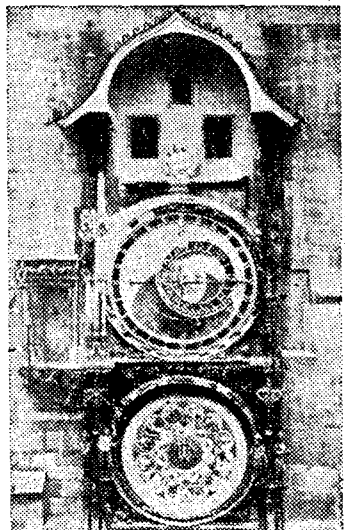
### A Hero in Antarctica

ONE of the young explorers of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, whose adventures the C.N. has already recorded, has been awarded the Albert Medal for life-saving in the Antarctic. He is 26-year-old Dr Arthur Richard Cecil Butson, of the Marguerite Bay base in frozen Graham Land.

One evening last July an American member of the Ronne Antarctic research expedition fell into a crevasse, and it was not until four o'clock the next morning that his icy trap was discovered. Dr Butson at once volunteered to be lowered into the chasm where, 106 feet down, he found the exhausted American tightly wedged between the walls of ice.

In this narrow space it was difficult to move at all, but Dr Butson worked for nearly an hour in the intense cold, chipping away the ice to free the trapped man. When at last the American and his rescuer were hauled to the surface, Dr Butson gave the American emergency medical treatment before he was taken to the base. Such are the hazards of Antarctic exploration.

### New Old Clock



The famous astronomical clock on the Town Hall of Prague, destroyed during the war, has now been replaced by this replica.

### A HOLIDAY IN A GIANT'S GRAVE

ONE of the most interesting holidays of the summer was surely the one enjoyed by boys of Coalbrookdale County High School, Shropshire. With Mr J. H. Herrings, their headmaster, they went to Ireland, and in County Londonderry excavated a Stone Age cairn, or giants' grave, as it is called.

It must have been a stirring experience for modern boys to help in laying bare the secrets buried thousands of years ago by men whose weapons and implements consisted almost entirely of flint. The presence of a single bronze implement showed that these ancient men were on the eve of a revolution when this grave or cairn was formed; they were about to discard stone for tools and weapons in favour of metal.

### First-Class Passengers

NEW ZEALAND farmers whose flocks and herds are the descendants of animals sent from England more than a hundred years ago, recently welcomed the liner Haparangi, for she carried the biggest shipment of pure-bred animals which the British Isles has been able to send to the Dominion for many years.

There were 32 animals on the Haparangi—not as many as Noah had on the Ark, but nevertheless a fair-sized party and all first-class passengers. They included Galloway, Aberdeen Angus, and Shorthorn cattle to join New Zealand's herds of beef cattle, some Jersey cattle which are very popular with dairy farmers, three Cheviot sheep, and one solitary white pig.

### RULES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

UNDER new regulations this term, public and private schools—independent schools as they are called officially—must inform their local education authority of all pupils of compulsory school age, except boarders, who do not come to school regularly, or who are away for a period of more than two weeks.

Also, boys and girls at these schools must remain at school until the end of the term in which they have their 15th birthday, like pupils at schools maintained by the local education authority.

### Wildfowl Counters Wanted

SEVERAL schools with natural history societies are helping the International Committee for Bird Preservation in making "counts" of wild geese and duck in this country, with a view to building up more knowledge of wildfowl.

Making counts of the wildfowl is a new idea in Britain, and was carried out for the first time last February.

A special effort is being made this autumn and winter when flocks of wild geese and ducks will arrive here. The dates when the Committee's helpers are making these counts are: October 30, November 27, and January 1.

The Committee, whose address is c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, SW7, is asking the help of persons or groups who have some knowledge of wildfowl.

### Who Owns These Islets?

THE International Court of Justice at The Hague is soon to be faced with the task of settling the dispute between Britain and France as to who really owns the two groups of islets called the Ecrehous and the Minquiers off the coast of France.

It might be wondered why anyone should want these islets, for they are tiny, rocky, and inhospitable. The sea surrounding them, however, is rich in fish, and fishermen on both sides of the Channel are naturally reluctant to give up the fishing rights in these waters, which are outside the territorial limits of France and the Channel Islands.

For the British case it is said that by the Treaty of Bretigny in 1360 the French king surrendered the isles of Normandy to England. This treaty, however,

according to the custom of those days, was drawn up in Latin, and, after mentioning the principal islands by name, added "et quibusdam aliis." This phrase was translated in Britain "and to all others," but the French maintain that the proper translation of the phrase is "and to certain others."

In 1839 an agreement was made to hold the fishing rights in common, but in 1870 a struggle broke out between the fishermen on both sides for their possession. Later the Jersey States staked their claim by running up the Union Jack on one of the islets, a gesture which the French answered by building a fisherman's hut near it.

There at the moment the dispute stands, for the International Court of Justice to settle.

### MIND MY LEG!

A FREAK rhino horn is the latest trophy of the Kenya Game Department. The rhinoceros to which it belonged, a bull, had been causing extensive damage to crops. It ignored attempts to drive it away and so had to be shot by a Game Ranger, who found, growing on the animal's hind leg, a horn about nine inches long and weighing at least ten pounds.

### 300 Years of Paper-Making

THERE is a paper mill in Britain which has just completed 300 years of work. At what is now the Arnold-Foster Paper Mill at Eynsford, Kent, the making of paper by hand began as long ago as 1648; and not only is paper still made here, but it is still made by hand.

Paper-making by hand requires more than twenty different processes, all calling for considerable knowledge and experience. That is probably why the average length of service of the present staff is 25 years.

### A Life of Service to Lawn Tennis

THE Council of the Lawn Tennis Association recently met in London to pay tribute to Humbert Anthony Sabelli, who is now 70 and is giving up his secretaryship of the L.T.A., a post he has long held with great credit.

Sabby, as he is known to tennis players and officials all over the world, was born in Naples, and educated at Marlborough College. With fluent knowledge of four languages, and the tact of a diplomat, he has been a great influence in the tennis world. He played a great part in the amazing progress of the game during the last half-century, and has seen "Wimbledon" grow from the old Worple Road days (when players had to change in tents adjoining the courts) into a great international lawn tennis festival.

Sabelli has also been manager of several British Davis Cup teams, including the one which won the trophy in 1933. In fact, he has been the mentor and guide of British lawn tennis for many years now and he will be sadly missed.



### Throwing Her Voice

Ten-year-old Sandra Marks of Bath is already an accomplished ventriloquist, and has given public performances at Bristol and Bath. Here we see Sandra, with her "partner," entertaining some school friends at her house.





### Nursery Corner

A mixed bag of babies at the Paignton Zoo, Devon, consisting of four lion cubs, a little llama, and a young chimpanzee.

## South Africa Shows Her Art

AN exhibition of South African Art at the Tate Gallery is now open and will remain so till the end of this month.

What the Art of this British Dominion has become in the years since the Dominion was itself established is of national importance today, because of the growing place of South Africa within the Commonwealth. But the exhibition is of high interest in itself because it shows how those who live there see their land whether they are natives or of immigrant stock.

Among the artists represented here are Dutch, English, Portuguese, and Asiatics, who include Indians and Malays and Arabs. All are represented in the sculpture and the paintings, and by no means least in interest are the paintings, now historical, by English marine painters of the stations in the Trade route to the East, such as Table Bay, of Long Street, Cape Town, with Cape Malays on the pavement, or of Settlers being rowed ashore at Port Elizabeth.

Thomas Baines, who painted the last named, was also the first to see and paint the Victoria Falls. But this was when the country was still wild, big with mystery. So here, too, are paintings of natives killing a white rhinoceros on the Zambesi; of canoemen hunting hippo near Lake Ngami; and a later drawing of a Bushman shooting a poisoned arrow.

Yet it is the moderns who make us see clearest how South Africa looks today in the eyes of both the native and "settler." Walter Battiss, born this century, but influenced by the prehistoric and Bushman cave paintings, can and does make us see the Rock Shelter as those forgotten artists saw it and even their conception of a native paradise. Others are with him in this aim as the Deserted Karoo Farm, by Le Roux, bears witness, and also Sixpence a Door, in which Gerard Sokoto, a Bantu, depicts Africans waiting outside the entrance to a peep-show. More direct evidence of South Africa today is the impressive portrait by Neville Lewis of Chief Tehekedi Khama who, besides being a chieftain among his people, has a recognised position in the learned world.

The sculpture stands on a pedestal of its own. On it we would place first the beautiful wood carvings of Adam and Eve by Frieda Ollemans, and her inspired, single figure named Thinker. Among the bronzes is a bust of Dr Broom who yearly puts the first men and the first ape-men resembling them farther back in pre-history. Another, by Anton Van Wouw, is Kruger in Exile—a touching vision of the old man with his big open Bible on his knees.

This exhibition, indeed, has much to please, to entertain—and to teach.

## THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT TELL

THE George Cross has been awarded posthumously to Flight-Sergeant Stanley James Woodbridge, the memory of whom will live with those of Britain's greatest heroes.

The Japanese were anxious to obtain secrets about British wireless equipment, codes, wavelengths, and other information, and they selected this young airman, whom they had captured after he had crashed in Burma in January 1945, as being the prisoner most likely to know what they were so eager to find out.

They threatened him, but he remained silent. Then they began to torture him. He was kicked, and beaten mercilessly with belts and a sword. He still

refused to tell them anything. At last they dragged this staunch young Britisher, battered and bleeding, into the jungle, saying they would kill him unless he revealed what he knew. He told them to get on with killing him if they really meant to—and to do it quickly. Again they tortured him, and still he refused to speak; finally they beheaded him.

Flight-Sergeant Woodbridge, who was only 23, was born in Chelsea, London. The official announcement of his award says of him: "His fortitude, loyalty to his country, and complete disregard for his own safety, even unto death, constitute one of the highest examples of valour in the annals of the Royal Air Force."

## The Never-Never Serpent

IF science had not played the stern detective, we might this month be celebrating the centenary of the authentic discovery of the sea-serpent. The captain and crew of HMS Daedalus, on reaching their home port in October 1848, presented the Admiralty with a full report of a sea monster that they had seen while sailing from the East Indies, and had identified, they said, as a sea-serpent. A careful sketch was enclosed.

The Admiralty sent the report and the drawing to Sir Richard Owen, the greatest naturalist of the day. He convincingly showed that what the sailors had seen of the supposed sea-serpent was simply the head and neck of a large seal or sea lion floating on an iceberg.

The Admiralty then sent to Sir Richard Owen a number of mariners' sketches of other supposed sea-serpents. He was able to show that one was a ribbon fish, and in another case, distant whales had been mistaken; nothing resembling a sea-serpent, he said, had ever existed and none ever would.

"Who killed the sea-serpent?" "I," said Professor Owen," wrote Punch, to which Sir Richard laughingly replied, "Scotched, not killed."

The Professor was right, for periodically ever since other supposed sea-serpents have bobbed up from the sea, only to be "scotched" once more by matter-of-fact scientists, sure of their ground.

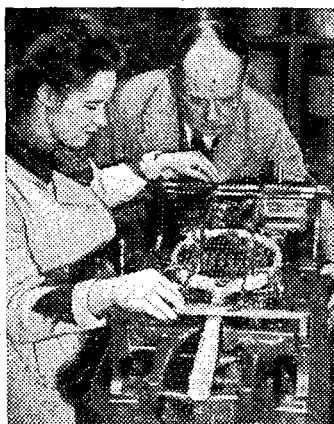
## MUCH FASTER THAN SOUND

THE first piloted aircraft to fly faster than sound, the US rocket-propelled Bell X-1, has been flown by Captain Charles E. Yeager at a speed hundreds of miles faster than the speed of sound.

This was officially stated recently by the Secretary of the United States Air Force, Mr Symington.

The Bell X-1 is a small aircraft, and for this dramatic flight it was dropped from the inside of a Superfortress. Its flight was made at 40,000 feet, at which the speed of sound is 600 m.p.h. Mr Symington would not say what was the little plane's exact speed, but it is believed to have been as much as 1000 miles an hour.

## WORKERS' PARADE



A girl operating a machine which strings tennis racquets.

## The Editor's Table

### LET THERE BE LIGHT

A CLEAR and solemn word has been uttered to the world by the British Foreign Secretary in a speech which revealed not only fears but also hopes for the future. Mr Bevin appealed to the peoples of the different nations. "I still pin my faith," he said, "on the ordinary people of the world who will not be deceived in the end either by dialectics or slogans. They may be confused for a time, but in the end the simple will discern the truth. Let there be light."

Frankness, information, and co-operation are the much-needed gifts which the common people of the world expect to see forthcoming from their rulers; and it is the lack of these gifts from Russia which so cloud the skies at present. Light, movement, and freedom are deliberately frustrated so that a vast host of the common people live behind an impenetrable barrier. Light is not allowed to break in on them, and the readiness of the world's peoples to be friends with the Russian people is not communicated to them.

*Darkness shall cover the earth  
And gross darkness the people.*

THIS ancient prophecy has become partly true in our own time; but let it also be remembered that running alongside it is this message of faith:

*Arise, shine; for thy light is come.*

It was this ancient message which Mr Bevin translated into modern terms. "Let the common people learn that among ordinary people in other countries as well as in themselves there are no such things as aggressors. It is not the simple people who want to fight. It is not they who want to dominate." This is the light of reason which must illumine the world if mankind is ever to march forward into fresh realms of freedom and fellowship.

ALL the nations must come into the light with their plans and policies, keeping nothing back, not hiding behind the barriers of darkness. It is light which dispels the dark, and to be called "children of the light" is still the proud hope of all the peoples. It is not to be believed that any section of the human family is deliberately excluding itself from this hope.

### BENEFITS OF SELF-DENIAL

THERE never did and never will exist anything permanently noble and excellent in a character which was a stranger to the exercise of resolute self-denial. Teach self-denial, and make its practice pleasurable, and you create for the world a destiny more sublime than ever issued from the brain of the wildest dreamer.

Sir Walter Scott

## Youth's Lead In Road Safety

BOYS and girls will be well to the fore at the National Safety Congress, organised by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and being held this week, from October 12 to 15, at the Central Hall, Westminster.

It is being attended by 1000 delegates from Local Authorities all over Britain.

Representatives of youth will address the Congress on Thursday. They will include a Senior Scout, a Ranger, a St John Ambulance Cadet, and members of the Church Lads' Brigade, the Boys' Brigade, a Junior Road Safety Committee, and the Harrow School Traffic Club.

On Wednesday there are to be two Child Safety sessions, and Dr Charles Hill, the well-known Radio Doctor, will speak on Road Accidents and Young Children.

It is indeed encouraging to see how our young people are giving a lead in this vital matter of road safety.

### SWEET TARGET

A THRILL of hope will leap in our hearts at some recent cryptic remarks of Mr Strachey, the Minister of Food.

He was addressing old-age pensioners, and one of these worthy old folk—with a youthful tooth—described the sweet ration as "very meagre."

Mr Strachey said that if sweets were taken off the ration there would not be many in the shops "above the counter"; but, he added, "I have in mind the possibility of a halfway house with some varieties of sweets off the ration."

What is Mr Strachey aiming at—the bulls-eye?

### JUST AN IDEA

As Alexander Pope wrote:  
*Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense  
Lie in three words—Health, Peace, and Competence.*

## Under the E



PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If we decline a noun  
with thanks

TOO many photographers in London are snapping passers by. Let us hope their bark is worse than their bite.

MANY housewives like a house with a cellar where they can do the rough work. Get down to it.

AUSTRALIA and South Africa have bought more than half the rayon cloth exported from the United Kingdom. Don't do things by halves.

COOKERY courses cannot be started at Finchley for want of a cook who can teach. One who can cook would be more useful.



## TRUE EDUCATION

SIR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE, who has often spoken a fine and old word for the cause of good living, spoke yet another when he opened the college for Women's Institute members. He told his audience that "education was not schooling. Its purpose was to assist us to do the things we wanted to do, but could not do without help."

Education, according to Sir Richard, was meant to give men the tools to live with and the keys to unlock the doors of wonder in a wonderful world. And, truly, this generation of youth is having the doors unlocked with a liberality which previous generations could only dream of; schools are now places where learning is linked with life.

Education goes on for the whole of life. It does not stop when the young girl becomes a housewife and mother, or when the man starts earning his living. Its purpose is to help us "read books, enjoy music, or to grow flowers and vegetables well, to decorate a house, do needlework, bring up children, understand engines or the stars." This is the enterprise which is always beginning and goes on unceasingly all through life.

## Drill Chucks and Suchlike

DRILL chucks, steam pressure casting machines, bite cutters, spring-tempered explorers; these are not samples of an engineer's heavy outfit, but items on view at the recent London Dental Trade Exhibition. Other items were telegraphic mouth gags and a quick release restraining strap for a difficult patient.

The exhibition was for dentists and those concerned in manufacturing and selling their ingenious but somewhat awe-inspiring equipment. The general public were not admitted—but who among us would raise a protest?

## Editor's Table

AN orchard in Maldon is to be turned into a housing estate. No room for building.

A SUTTON man has made an electric grandfather clock for his wife. Gave grandfather a shock.

DOMESTIC users of electricity are asked to exercise economy. But they can't take it for walks.

A LADY says she takes a rest for part of every day. What does she do with the rest?



GARDENING can be an exciting hobby. Thrills you to the marrow.

## THINGS SAID

THE darker the outlook, the brighter must our faith shine. *Anthony Eden, M P*

IN Africa mankind has a new world to create.

*Count Sforza, Italian Foreign Minister*

WE have a vision of a strong, happy, and progressive Europe linked with a western hemisphere as twin pillars of freedom and democracy as in the past. *Sir Stafford Cripps*

WE seek friendship with all peoples, but it must be friendship and not subservience. It must be co-operation and not dictation.

*James Griffiths, M P*

THE young people of to-day seem to me, so far as I can judge, of greater promise than were either of the two previous generations that I knew.

*Lord Samuel*

## Kith and Kin

UNDER a recent agreement between Britain and New Zealand, families moving from the one country to the other can begin to draw family allowances on arrival, no residence test being imposed.

This is a splendid step forward in closer co-operation between our kinsmen in the Dominions and ourselves. It is also an excellent way of assisting emigration, for it means that families migrating to New Zealand will receive help as soon as they arrive, and, of course, if N Z families come to Britain they will enjoy the same privilege. In New Zealand Family Allowances of ten shillings a week are paid for every child in a family—including the eldest.

New Zealand was the first of the Empire countries to introduce schemes of Social Security; Old Age Pensions were first started there in 1898, and in 1938 she passed a Social Security Act which not only improved the pension system then in force, but also established a national health service. Now she is the first Commonwealth country to make a Family Allowances agreement with Great Britain.

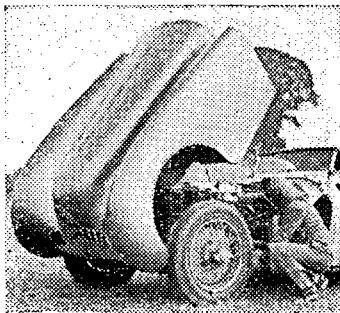
## AUTUMN EVENSONG

THE long cloud edged with streaming grey  
Soars from the west;  
The red leaf mounts with it away  
Showing the nest  
A blot among the branches bare:  
There is a cry of outcasts in the air.

Swift little breezes, darting chill,  
Pant down the lake;  
A crow flies from the yellow hill  
And in its wake  
A baffled line of labouring rooks:  
Steel-surfaced to the light the river looks.

Pale on the panes of the old hall  
Gleams the lone space  
Between the sunset and the squall;  
And on its face  
Mournfully glimmers to the last:  
Great oaks grow mighty minstrels in the blast.

*George Meredith*



## New Bonnet

This specially-designed British car has the bonnet and wings all in one piece, hinged at the front to give easy access to the engine.

## WORLD'S BIGGEST CRICKET GROUND

AUSTRALIA has always boasted the world's finest cricket grounds. Now the famous Test arena at Melbourne, Victoria, is to be enlarged to accommodate crowds of 100,000.

The Melbourne ground has already contained bigger crowds than any other cricket ground—over 95,000 spectators for a State match in 1938. In the previous year, when Melbourne staged a Test match against England, nearly 88,000 people saw the play, paying over £7,000 for admission.

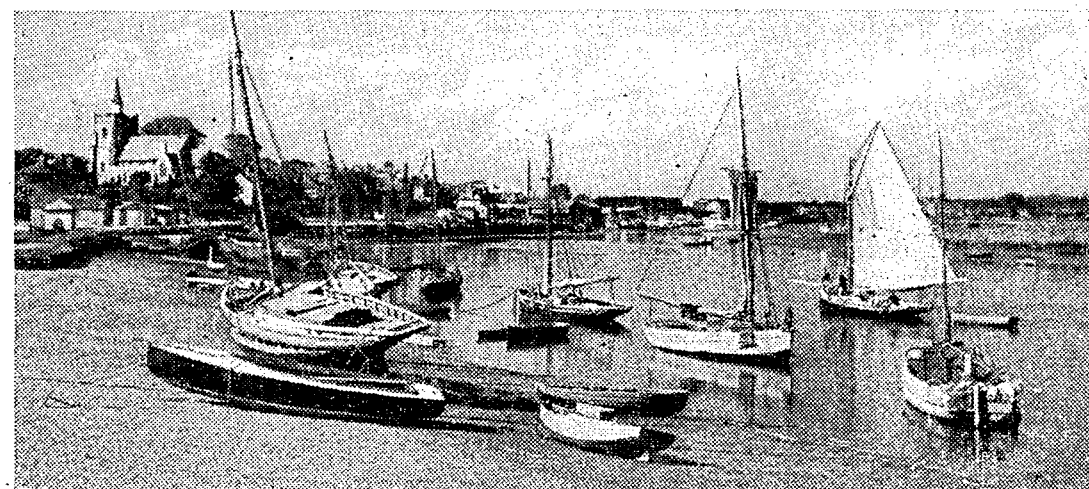
Let us compare Melbourne's accommodation with that at Lord's. During the Third Test this summer, which occupied five days, the total attendance was 133,000, an average of just over 26,000 spectators each day. Many thousands, of course, were disappointed.

Shall we ever possess a cricket ground to compare with that at Melbourne? The need is there, and we should like one day to see a "cricket Wembley" for the Test Matches.

## Launching Half a Ship

HALF of a ship which will eventually be used as a whaler was recently launched from a shipbuilding yard at Port Glasgow. The half-section was built on a special cradle which was drawn on to the slipway for the launching. A straightforward launching was out of the question in this case, so the cradle with the half-ship section reposing in it was gradually eased down the slipway into the water with the help of a winch and steel cable.

This half-ship will now be fitted to the after-part of a former Admiralty corvette in the dry dock.



## THIS ENGLAND

Little fishing craft at anchor on the River Blackwater at the ancient town of Maldon in Essex

# Pioneers in China's Remote North-West

DURING the past summer a young English surgeon has led a team of medical pioneers from the city of Lanchow to the mountain outpost of Hwalung, away in the remote north-west of China, where three mighty rivers (the Yellow, the Yangtse, and the Mekong) rise amid the peaks of the Chinghai Province.

The vast province of Chinghai is the outer granary of China, producing wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, peaches, and apricots; but up in the mountains, where there are said to be peaks almost as high as Everest, the nomad lives in his yak-hair tent with flocks of sheep and goats. Into this isolated area the China Inland Mission has been pushing for years from the capital of Sining, where the road from Lhasa to Peking makes one of its important crossings.

Dr Rupert Clarke and his helpers started out from Lanchow in Kansu in a small petrol truck carrying supplies for a medical clinic. Five miles out, where they left the Yellow River to climb the mountain road, the fuel gave out owing to a block in the piping. The doctor came to the rescue by conducting the precious liquid to the carburettor through a piece of stethoscope tubing, with a square of surgical gauze as filter.

Down the boulder-strewn path to the Sining River the truck bumped and bounced. The bridge was in a rickety condition, hanging precariously above the deep gorge, and everything on the truck had to be unpacked and carried by hand, with the flooded, raging torrent down below offering no hope of rescue in case of a slip. Pouring rain made the ascent of the steep mountain

slope just as dangerous, with the wheels of the truck failing to grip. Dr Clarke and the ladies of the party got out to walk up the steep slope, and the spluttering truck, relieved of some of its burden, managed to get to the top.

All seemed well again as Dr Clarke's truck went speeding down the rough mountain track to Hwalung. Then, suddenly, the track caved in beneath it and the back wheel fell into a deep hole. One of the front wheels was a foot in the air, and only the weight of the petrol tank prevented the truck from turning right over.

Again the truck had to be unloaded, while the driver went down the track to collect men to lift the vehicle bodily out of the hole. One of the heaviest jobs was to take off two 50-gallon casks of petrol being carried to the clinic as a reserve for the winter months. However, at long last, sitting on boxes in the front of the truck, the party eventually arrived at Hwalung to set up their clinic.

Such are the hazards—yet everyday affairs—run by those valiant souls who give up their lives to serve others in the fellowship of suffering and take the Christian message of hope to the remotest corners of the Earth.

## ANOTHER CHILDREN'S TOWN

FOLLOWING the example of other European countries Hungary has a children's town—a town in which children not only live but which is also governed and run by children.

In pleasant woods near Hajdudhaz, a village 20 miles north of Debreczen, capital of north-east Hungary, this children's town has developed from a camp built in the war. It has a population of 300, many of whom are orphans, but others have been sent by parents for training.

The officials are all children. They have their own mayor, police force, and judges, the whole organisation being designed to create and cultivate a

sense of communal and civic responsibility.

Even in this town run by children there are schools. All children go to school until they are 14, and they learn both Hungarian and Russian. After this general schooling they go on to special training, approved by the Hungarian Ministry of Industry, covering all aspects of useful life.

Largely as a result of the war Hungary has as many as 25,000 homeless children, and it is hoped to build up many more such children's towns, with an average population of about a thousand. This first Hungarian children's town will be the model.



## Sweet Singer of Devon

Just three hundred years ago, in the autumn of 1648, a book of poems appeared in London which set the whole town talking. There was much else to talk of in London at that time, for the Civil War was at its height, but Englishmen found solace in the gentle lines of Robert Herrick's *Hesperides*.

When these poems were first published Robert Herrick had been vicar of Dean Prior, just outside the little town of Buckfastleigh, for 19 years. For 17 of them he had faithfully tended his flock, happy in the little valley, living a simple life among simple, unaffected country folk. It is all chronicled in his poems—those charming lyrics which he wrote in the peace of his vicarage:

*A little house whose humble roof  
Is weatherproof;  
Under the spars of which I lie  
Both soft and dry.*

Then had come war between Parliament and Charles the First, and Herrick had had to leave the vicarage because he supported the king, and had come to London Town, wondering whether he would ever return to his corner of lovely Devon and see the daffodils again.

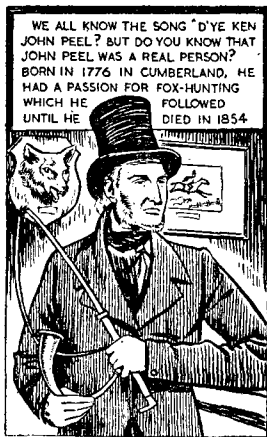
### Return From Exile

Fifteen years of exile did Robert Herrick endure; and then, with another King Charles on the throne, the poet went back to his vicarage and his people—and to his sweet singing of green meadows and cherry ripe. There until his death in 1634 he lived content.

*I sing of Brooks, of Blossome,  
Birds and Bowers;  
Of April, May, of June and July-  
Flowers.*

*I sing of Maypoles, Hock-carts,  
Wassails, Wakes,  
Of Bride-grooms, Brides, and of  
their Bridall-cakes.*

Herrick sang of the simple pleasures, and he was a born lyric writer who can be read and enjoyed without footnotes explaining his meaning. His place in English poetry is as secure as that of his great contemporary John Milton.



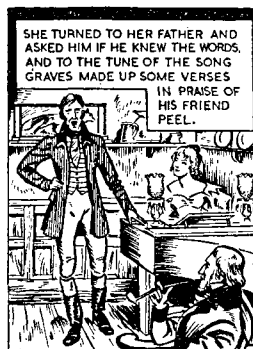
WE ALL KNOW THE SONG "DYE KEN JOHN PEEL"? BUT DO YOU KNOW THAT JOHN PEEL WAS A REAL PERSON? BORN IN 1776 IN CUMBERLAND, HE HAD A PASSION FOR FOX-HUNTING WHICH HE FOLLOWED UNTIL HE DIED IN 1854.

## FACT OF THE MATTER

WHO WAS JOHN PEEL, THE HERO OF THE FAMOUS SONG?



ONE EVENING, HE AND ANOTHER HUNTSMAN NAMED JOHN GRAVES WERE PLANNING THE NEXT DAY'S HUNT IN THE PARLOUR OF AN INN. WHILE GRAVES'S DAUGHTER PLAYED A SONG CALLED "BONNIE ANNIE" AT THE PIANO.



SHE TURNED TO HER FATHER AND ASKED HIM IF HE KNEW THE WORDS, AND TO THE TUNE OF THE SONG GRAVES MADE UP SOME VERSES IN PRAISE OF HIS FRIEND PEEL.



AND SO THE FAMOUS SONG WAS BORN: BUT LITTLE DID GRAVES REALISE AT THE TIME HOW TRUE HIS WORDS WOULD BECOME WHEN HE SAID JOKINGLY TO PEEL, "YOUR FAME WILL BE SUNG ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WHEN WE'RE BOTH RUN TO EARTH, JOHN."

## THE HALL MARK OF INTEGRITY

ONE of the chief factors in the restoration of Britain as a leader of the world in commerce is her integrity. We often speak of British goods as bearing the hall mark of perfection; and thus ascribe to our manufacturers the term which strictly applies only to articles fashioned of gold and silver.

Many of us, indeed, have in our homes treasured articles of gold or silver which, we have often heard grown-ups say, are "genuine; you can see the hall mark on it," and we have wondered just what those tiny marks stamped on the article have to do with its value.

The term hall mark comes from Goldsmiths' Hall in London, where, since ancient times, gold and silver articles have been tested and stamped. There are six other Assay Offices in the British Isles—at Birmingham, Chester, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin.

The Deputy Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, Mr H. E. Lindsey, has explained to a C.N. representative the mysteries of the time-honoured process of hall marking gold and silver.

If your silver spoon was assayed in London, he says, the little marks on it tell the history of hall marking. One is a leopard's head which was used when Edward I in 1300 first introduced the testing for their quality of gold and silver articles. It was called the King's Mark, but is now known as the Town Mark for London. Since 1363 every maker

of gold or silver articles has put his mark beside the King's Mark. In 1478 another, called the Touch Warden's Mark, was instituted. This is now called the Date Mark, and is a letter indicating the year in which the assay was made. But originally it referred to the Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, responsible for testing the quality of the metal; and it was ordered to be used in case there were any complaints of inferior metal being stamped as good, when the Warden responsible could be traced.

About 1544 the Lion Passant was added to satisfy the public

that articles were not being made of coins melted down—the coinage having been debased by Henry VIII! This is now the standard mark for silver. Gold articles do not bear the lion but have figures showing the carat standard of the metal. These are 22 carat, shown with a crown, 18 carat, also with a crown, 14 carat with the decimal 585, and 9 carat with the decimal 375. The last two standards have no crown.

At Goldsmiths' Hall in London experts are busy all day testing gold and silver articles brought there by their manufacturers—wedding rings, petrol lighters, pencil holders, silver spoons, forks, salt cellars, and many tiny golden "lucky charms." The test is made by scraping a little of the metal from an article. This scraping is then weighed to the third or fourth decimal place of accuracy. Gold is then put in a muffled furnace—a sort of oven—and heated to 1100 degrees centigrade. This removes from the gold the base metals. The pure gold which remains is weighed again, and thus the assayer can discover how much alloy there is in the article itself. Silver is assayed by means of a chemical test.

When the gold or silver content of the articles is found to be correct, each one is stamped with the hall-mark punch by means of a hammer, a handworked stamping machine, or by a power press.

And down the centuries everyone recognises that article as beyond suspicion.

### Looking-Glass Land

AFTER Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll took his readers to another topsy-turvy country in his companion tale, *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*, the first instalment of which, as a picture story, appears below.

For years *Through the Looking Glass* has been as immensely popular as Alice in Wonderland. Quotations from it have become sayings in our language; for instance: "Jam tomorrow and jam yesterday—but never jam today." And the queer people Alice met—Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Humpty Dumpty, the White Queen and the White Knight, and others—have become famous characters in our literature.

## The Charm of Old Dunblane

BEAUTIFUL Dunblane Cathedral, which has been in the news because of a unique grant of heraldic arms, is one of the few examples of Gothic art in Scotland which escaped destruction at the Reformation. It was originally founded as a church by St Blane in the seventh century. In 1150 this early church, standing on the banks of the Allan Water, was replaced by a cathedral built by David I of Scotland, but only the handsome Norman tower of this structure now remains. After a century of neglect the cathedral was rebuilt in the Early English style by Bishop Clemens.

Ruskin was charmed by Dunblane Cathedral, of which he confessed, "I know nothing so perfect in its simplicity." Particularly did the great art critic admire the window in the west gable with the leaf decoration. Instead of being satisfied with a merely formal design, he wrote, the architect "went down to the woody banks of the sweet river, beneath the rocks of which he was building, and took up a few of the fallen leaves that lay by it, and he set them on his arch, side by side for ever."

### An Unwilling Bishop

Perhaps the most celebrated character ever connected with Dunblane Cathedral was the saintly Robert Leighton, who became Bishop there in 1661. Leighton was opposed to the attempts of Charles II to introduce Episcopacy into Scotland. He intensely disliked being elevated to a bishopric, which he said was to him "a mortification greater than a cell and hair-cloth," and it was characteristic of the man that he should choose the smallest and poorest diocese in Scotland.

For ten years Bishop Leighton lived in the pretty little town of Dunblane, never resting in his opposition to the king, yet retaining that crafty monarch's respect. Because of his gentleness and nobility of mind he was beloved by the townspeople, and to this day his favourite walk by the river is known as the Bishop's Walk. The library of 1500 books which he bequeathed to the diocese is still in existence.

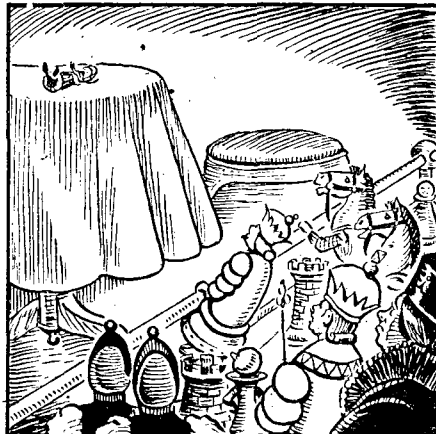
## First Instalment of THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS, Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy



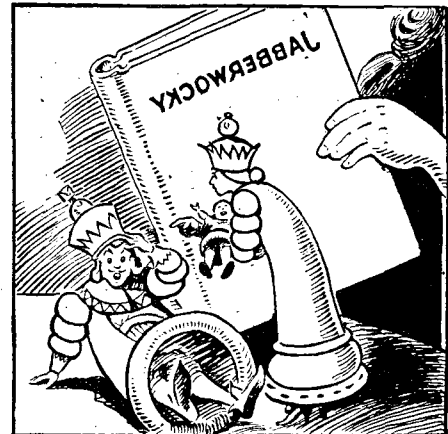
Sometimes Alice used to pretend that the room she could see in the mirror was a real room leading into a strange Looking-glass house. One afternoon she said to her kitten: "Let's pretend there's a way of getting through. Let's pretend the glass has got soft like gauze." Then—she never quite knew how it happened—the glass did begin to melt away, just like a bright silvery mist.



Alice jumped down into Looking-glass room. The things here that could not be seen from the old room were different. The clock—you could only see the back of it in the mirror—had an old man's face and grinned at her. But what most astonished her was that the chessmen—she had been playing with chessmen in the old room—were walking about in the hearth in twos, led by the Red King and Queen.



The live chessmen could not see or hear Alice. Then a pawn on the table began squeaking and the White Queen exclaimed: "The voice of my child!" and started to scramble up the fender. Eager to help, Alice put her on the table. The Queen gasped and sat down, hugging the pawn. "Mind the volcano!" she called down to the White King. "What volcano?" he asked. "Blew-me-up," panted the Queen.



"Mind you come up the regular way—don't get blown up!" said the Queen. Very gently, this time, Alice lifted the King, but he too was scared out of his wits. She decided she had better not touch them again. Then her attention was attracted by a book on the table. She opened it and was soon very puzzled, for it seemed to be printed in a language she did not know. It was called YKOWREBBAJ.

What is the Story of This Book With the Odd Title? See Next Week's Instalment

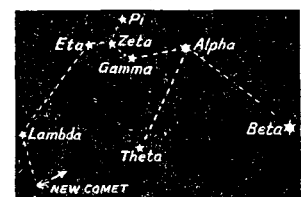


# THE NEW COMET IN AQUARIUS

By the C N Astronomer

THE widespread constellation of Aquarius now occupies much of the southern sky of an evening. It is at a rather low altitude, and, with its stars appearing wide apart, presents no easily-remembered geometrical arrangement, but just now it may be identified by means of the accompanying star-map and the line in the C N of October 2, where the position of the bright star Beta-in-Aquarius was indicated in relation to the stars of Capricornus, the Sea Goat.

Aquarius, the eleventh constellation of the Zodiac, is of great antiquarian interest, but it has at present an added interest owing to the discovery of a new comet named Comet Ashbrook 1948 i, the "i" indicating that it is the ninth comet to be discovered this year. It was first spotted at the Lowell Observatory, in U.S.A. It is faint and small, belonging to the large "Jovian Family," and is now



about 120 million miles away and receding, so it will not become visible to the naked eye. The comet's present position is shown in the star-map, the arrow indicating its direction.

The title Aquarius is usually interpreted as Water Bearer, but it is also known popularly as the Man with the Watering Pot, or Water Jar. The interest of Aquarius centres round this Water Jar, partly represented by the fourteenth magnitude stars Gamma, Zeta, Eta, and Pi, which are in Y shape. This jar, carried upside down by Aquarius and in his right arm, sends forth a stream of water that spreads over the southern heavens and down to the bright first-magnitude star Fomalhaut, some way below this group of stars. Fomalhaut is the brightest star of the Southern Fish, Piscis Australis, and the Fish has always been represented as swallowing the water that issues from the Jar of Aquarius, thus symbolising that Aquarius is supplying water for the rivers and the fish.

## Ancient Story

This story dates from the earliest historic times both in Chaldea and Egypt, where representations of Aquarius are found. In those times when the Sun entered this constellation late in the autumn the rainy season arrived, but now the Sun is not in Aquarius until February owing to the precession of the Equinoxes.

The two brightest stars of Aquarius appear of only third magnitude, though they are both giant stars. Alpha, also known as Sadalmelik, radiates about 700 times more light and heat than our Sun, but from a distance of 105 light-years' journey, while Beta-in-Aquarius, also known as Sadalsund, is about the same distance and radiates 800 times more light and heat than our Sun. Zeta is much smaller and 251 light-years' distant, while Gamma is but 51 light-years' journey away, a sun similar to Sirius and scarcely twice the diameter of our Sun. G. F. M.

# In Honour of a Great Welshman

AN appeal has been launched to build a Memorial College to David Lloyd George, one of the Empire's greatest statesmen, who started life as a poor boy in Wales, and who was responsible for our first National Insurance Act.

The new Lloyd George Memorial College is to be at Llanystumdwy, Carnarvonshire, where this Happy Warrior spent his boyhood days, and where in 1945 he died and is buried.

It is just the sort of memorial he would have loved, for David Lloyd George had to obtain his education in the hard way.

This Welsh boy who was to grow up to inspire and lead the British Empire in the First World War—as Winston Churchill led us in the Second—and who, with the stalwart aid of Churchill, was to fight terrific political battles to win social benefits which millions enjoy today, was born in a humble home. His father died in 1864, while David was in his cradle, and his mother took David and his sister to live with her brother, Richard Lloyd, in a creeper-covered cottage at Llanystumdwy, near Criccieth. Outside the cottage hung a sign with a boot on it and the words "Richard Lloyd, Gwneuthurwr" (bootmaker).

There among the Welsh hills about which he later spoke so poetically in speeches to which the world listened, "that David Lloyd," as irritated local landowners called him when he trespassed on their enclosures in search of nuts, led other lads in climbing expeditions.

At the village school young David showed that staunch crusading quality which in after life was to bring him millions of fervent followers—and many bitter opponents. The village school was an Anglican school, and although most of its pupils belonged to the Free Churches, they had to learn the Catechism. Once a year the squire came with the vicar to listen to the children reciting the Catechism.

Young David, an ardent "Non-Conformist," organised a passive

resistance movement, and when the great day came the children refused to answer the vicar's questions. As a result of this revolt the practice of making these Free Church children learn the Catechism was dropped.

David wanted to be a lawyer, but to pass the preliminary examination he would have to know French and Latin, subjects not taught at the school. So his uncle set to work to teach himself French and Latin and then taught David—always managing somehow to keep just a few lessons ahead of the eager 13-year-old student. Sometimes David's sister and brother would help in the work, and by lamp-light in the evenings the three, with their studious, good-hearted Uncle Richard, would slowly work their way through an old copy of Aesop's Fables translated into French.

It was home-made education in the fullest sense of the word, but it enabled David to pass his examination.

He never forgot his kindly uncle's help and when, many years later, the old man died, David, who was Prime Minister, left Downing Street and affairs of State to stand at his uncle's grave.

When David was 16 he was articled to a firm of solicitors at Portmadoc, and 11 years later, in 1890, this cheerful, smiling young Welshman, who was to produce what amounted to a non-violent social revolution in Britain, arrived at the House of Commons as the Radical member for Carnarvon Burghs.

In 1911, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he made laws of his National Insurance and Unemployment Insurance Bills. In 1916 he became Prime Minister and his country's dynamic leader in war.

## WHERE THE CAMEL IS A PEST

IN South Australia the camel is becoming a pest. Aptly described as Man's "humpy, grumpy servant," the camel is rapidly being replaced as a carrier by the faster lorry and bus, and its use is so restricted that camels are actually being given away by the South Australian Government. This tendency to do away with camels has been going on for some years, and, turned loose by their owners, they have become a real menace.

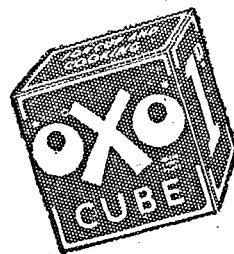
The animal-lover is greatly concerned at the unhappy fate of these versatile animals, whose services were of tremendous value in the pioneer days of Australia. The first camel, it is believed, was imported into Australia over a hundred years ago. In 1860 two dozen were especially imported from India as carriers for the ill-fated Burke-Wills expedition, which sought to explore the heart of the vast island continent. Six years later a hundred more were brought in, and they have thrived and multiplied amid the scrublands of South and Western Australia.

The camels' great strength, endurance, and ability to go without water for days made

them particularly valuable in the vast wastes of Australia. Sheep farmers, living hundreds of miles from the railways, used trains of camels to take loads of wool and other agricultural products to the nearest railroad, returning with food and mail.

It is strange that the camel, so great a success for nearly a century in Australia, should have failed to adapt itself successfully to the United States. The first US camels with native herdsmen to look after them, were imported and landed at Indianola, Texas. Driven to a specially prepared camel station at Camp Verde, the camels were successfully used in surveying a wagon route to the Pacific.

Three factors changed this success into failure. First came the Civil War, which halted activities. Secondly, horses and mules would not mix with the camels, and would bolt at the sight and smell of the "new-comers." Thirdly, the camels themselves suffered because their spongy footpads proved unsuited to the sharp stones and cactus thorns of this arid south-west area. In the end, most of the surviving camels were sold to circuses and zoos.



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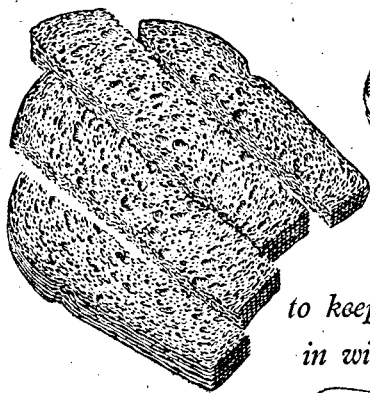
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## THE BRAN TUB

### MARCHING ORDERS

SHE was just leaving for town. "Don't forget to get something for the mice!" called her husband.

"Not me!" came the reply. "If they are not satisfied with what they get they can leave."

### What Your Name Means

Phyllis . . . leaf  
Polly . . . bitterness  
Priscilla . . . ancient  
Prudence . . . discretion  
Rachel . . . a ewe  
Ralph, Randolph . . . house-wolf

### TURNING THE LEAVES

OVER and over again, No matter which way we turn We always find in the book of life Some lessons we have to learn.

### RODDY



"When can I start shaving, Daddy? I can make all the faces."

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### The Woodland Elf

DEEP in the forest I saw a wee elf, Busily brushing and combing himself. His ears they were pointed, his eyes quick and bright, His jacket was red and his waistcoat was white.

How lovely I thought, if he'd come home and play, But I fear if he sees me he'll vanish away. It was just as I thought, when he caught sight of me, That dear little squirrel ran up a big tree.

#### FORGETFUL JOHNNIE

JOHNNIE was the most forgetful person—he was always forgetting things.

One day Mother, who was tying a parcel, suddenly stopped.

"Oh dear!" she muttered. "I haven't any sealing wax; and I must send this by registered post." Then, turning to Johnnie, she said: "Would you get me some on your way home from school?" "Certainly, Mummy!" cried the boy, and off he went.

At four o'clock Johnnie came hurrying back into the house.

"Can I go to Alan's house

## Jacko and Chimp Angle and Mangle



What better place to try their new "rods" thought Jacko and Chimp.



But Mother Jacko thought there was something "fishy" about it all.



And so did Jacko and Chimp when she made them add an "M" to angle.

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Roving Newts. With a final combined heave, the children raised the plank, which had been embedded in the ground. "Ugh!" exclaimed Ann in disgust as a variety of creepy-crawly insects scurried frantically in all directions.

"Look, there's a newt, too," said Don in surprise. "I thought they lived in ponds."

"Not all the time," explained Farmer Gray, overhearing Don. "Eventually they leave the water and take residence beneath logs, planks, or stones. Newts become most active at night, when they venture out in search of food. Worms, insects, and the larvae of ants all figure on the newt's menu."

### Work This Out

THE largest sum of money that can be expressed in pounds, shillings, and pence, making use of the nine digits once only is £98,765 4s 3½d.

What is the smallest sum that can be expressed with these nine figures? A little thought should give you the answer.

Answer next week

### Other Worlds

IN the evening south-west.



Jupiter is in the morning Venus and Saturn are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 9 o'clock Thursday evening, October 14.

### SONG OF THE SEASIDE

A curious old song called *Seaside Sights* has all its 130 words beginning with the letter S. The first two lines run like this:

SANDY stretches, surging surf, salty smells. Shelving shore, scorching sun, shining shells.

### Topsy-Turvy

THERE was an old man from West Ealing, Who had a peculiar feeling. He sprang out of bed, Stood erect on his head, And walked upside down on the ceiling.

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, October 13, to Tuesday, October 19.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 A Tusker Story; Children's Concert; Sound Quiz. *Midland*, 5.0 The Hole in the Trellis (Part 1); Bedford Girls' Choir, Stoke-on-Trent; Schoolboys' Swimming Championship Final. *N. Ireland*, 5.0 Songs; Children's Scripts; Cambridge House School Percussion Band; News Talk. *North*, 5.0 When Skiddaw Scowled; Piano Solos; Children's Newsreel. *Scottish*, 5.0 Birthday Concert; The Beechgrove Players; Songs; The Aberdeen Junior Arion Choir.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Black Wherry (4); Songs. *North*, 5.0 Mr Rufus Reddy—a nursery play; Hobbies for Winter Evenings.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Monkey Puzzle (Part 1). 5.40 A Dublin Nursery—a talk. *North*, 5.40 London Log.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Jennings at School (Part 1). *N. Ireland*, 5.0 Spelling Bee. *North*, 5.0 A Safety First Talk; Music; Spelling Bee. *West*, 5.0 The Adventures of Clara Chuff (1). 5.25 Piano. 5.40 The Beekeeper of Reddabrook—a story.

SUNDAY, 5.0 A Tale of Two Cities (2). *Scottish*, 5.0 Music and Stories.

MONDAY, 5.0 Tales of Sam Pig (2). 5.15 A Competition. 5.35 Music at Random. *Midland*, 5.15 The King of the Goats—a play. *Scottish*, 5.0 Exploring the Hut Country. 5.30 Music Competition.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (7). 5.20 Records. 5.40 An Eventful Dinner Party—a talk. *Midland*, 5.20 Benny, the Peg-boy; Design Week Exhibition. *North*, 5.0 Nursery Sing-Song; Visiting a Film Company; Hobbies for Winter Evenings. *Scottish*, 5.0 Tammy Troot Story; Down at the Mains. *West*, 5.20 Young Artists. 5.40 Hockey, by the Sport Coach.

### BEHEADING

FRESH-WATER anglers seek me, For I am nice to eat. Behead me and, heigh presto! I die not, but defeat. Behead me once again and, lo, I am not in. Now have a go. Answer next week

### Ticklish

"How many ribs have you, Johnnie?" asked the teacher. "I'm so awfully ticklish I never could count them," he replied.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Puzzle, Word  
Massachusetts

What Am I?  
Match-less

Jumbled Ports  
Port Said, New  
York, Durban,  
Aden, Colombo,  
Southampton.

P	A	N	A	R	R
R	T	A	L	E	E
E	E	V	E	R	E
D	E	L	A	T	O
R	A	I	L	H	E
A	T	E	A	O	R
P	A	R	A	G	O
E	C	I	O	T	A
D	E	A	R	S	L

### Sage Saw

He who swells in prosperity will shrink in adversity.



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